

We Claim:

1. A hand held fly swatter apparatus capable of being configured to capture insects alive from given surfaces to allow their subsequent disposal, the apparatus comprising:

an elongate handle having a rear end intended to be grasped by a user, and a front end;

a rigid housing attached to the front end of the handle and defining an insect trap compartment having a large aperture through which an insect is placed within the insect trap compartment, the housing including an upper wall and interconnected side walls extending downwardly to define the compartment aperture, and a track positioned adjacent to an edge of the compartment aperture; and

a planar mesh closure member supported within the track and slidable between a retracted position to permit access to the insect trap compartment through the compartment aperture, and an extended position wherein the mesh closure member covers the compartment aperture, wherein the housing and the mesh closure member, in its extended position, cooperatively provide a fly swatter.

2. An apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the handle has a generally rectangular cross-sectional configuration and is constructed of a resiliently flexible material.

3. An apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the track comprises two parallel channels which define two sides of the compartment aperture, wherein the channels are arranged to support a front end portion of the mesh closure member throughout its range of motion between the retracted and extended positions.

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4. An apparatus as set forth in claim 1, including means for slidably supporting a rear end portion of the mesh closure member relative to the handle.

5. An apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein the mesh closure member rear end supporting means includes a rear slide clamp attached to the rear end portion of the mesh closure member, having a central notch through which the handle slidably extends.

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6. An apparatus as set forth in claim 1, including means for limiting the extent of movement of the mesh closure member between the retracted position and the extended position.

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7. An apparatus as set forth in claim 6, wherein the closure member movement limiting means includes a housing bumper enclosing a front end of the track to prevent movement of the closure member beyond the front end of the compartment aperture as defined by the housing.

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8. An apparatus as set forth in claim 6, wherein the closure member movement limiting means includes a bumper fixed to the handle to prevent rearward movement of the closure member beyond the retracted position.

9. An apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the housing is generally transparent and the upper wall thereof includes a plurality of small apertures which allow air and water to pass but which are not large enough to permit a roach-sized insect to escape therethrough.

claims 8-9

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10. An apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the housing includes a rearwardly extending projection which supports a portion of the track designed to support a front end portion of the mesh closure member when placed in its retracted position.

11. A dual purpose apparatus providing, alternatively, an insect trap and a fly swatter, the apparatus comprising:

an elongate, resiliently flexible handle having a rear end intended to be grasped by a user, and a front end;

a rigid housing attached to the front end of the handle, the housing defining an insect trap compartment having a large aperture through which an insect is placed within the insect trap compartment; and

means slidable with respect to the handle and the housing in a plane between a retracted position and an extended position, for covering the insect trap compartment aperture in the extended position, and for uncovering said compartment aperture in the retracted position to permit access to the insect trap compartment, wherein the slidable means, in the extended position, and the housing cooperatively provide a fly swatter.

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~~12.~~ An apparatus as set forth in claim <sup>9</sup>~~11~~, wherein the housing includes an upper wall and interconnected side walls extending downwardly to define the compartment aperture.

13. An apparatus as set forth in claim 12, wherein the housing further includes a rearwardly extending projection for supporting a front end portion of the slidable means when placed in its retracted position.

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14. An apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein the housing is generally transparent and the upper wall thereof includes a plurality of small apertures which allow air and water to pass but which are not large enough to permit a roach-sized insect to escape therethrough.

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15. An apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein the slidable means comprises a planar mesh closure member, and wherein the housing includes a track for the closure member, the track comprising two parallel channels which define two sides of the compartment aperture, wherein the channels are arranged to support a front end portion of the closure member throughout its range of motion between the retracted and extended positions.

16. An apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein the apparatus further includes a rear slide clamp attached to a rear end portion of the mesh closure member, having a central notch through which the handle slidably extends, which provides means for slidably supporting the rear end portion of the mesh closure member relative to the handle.

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17. An apparatus as set forth in claim 16, including means for limiting the extent of movement of the mesh closure member between the retracted position and the extended position, wherein the closure member movement limiting means includes a housing bumper enclosing a front end of the track to prevent movement of the closure member beyond a front end of the compartment aperture as defined by the housing, and a rear bumper fixed to the handle and designed to engage the rear slide clamp to prevent rearward movement of the closure member beyond the retracted position.

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18. A hand held fly swatter apparatus capable of being configured to capture insects alive from given surfaces to allow their subsequent disposal, the apparatus comprising:

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an elongate, resiliently flexible handle of a generally rectangular cross-sectional configuration, having a rear end intended to be grasped by a user, and a front end;

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a rigid, generally transparent housing attached to the front end of the handle and defining an insect trap compartment having a large aperture through which an insect is placed within the insect trap compartment, the housing including an upper wall and interconnected side walls extending downwardly to define the compartment aperture, wherein the upper wall includes a plurality of small apertures which allow air and water to pass but which are not large enough to permit a roach-sized insect to escape therethrough, the housing further including a projection which extends rearwardly from a side wall adjacent to the handle;

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a track including two parallel channels which define two sides of the compartment aperture, wherein the track is supported by side walls and the rearward projection of the housing;

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a planar mesh closure member supported within the track and slidable between a retracted position to permit access to the insect trap compartment through the compartment aperture, and an extended position wherein the mesh closure member covers the compartment aperture, wherein the housing and the mesh closure member, in its extended position, cooperatively provide a fly swatter; and

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a rear slide clamp attached to a rear end portion of the mesh closure member, having a central notch through which the handle slidably extends, for slidably supporting the rear end portion of the mesh closure member relative to the handle.

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~~19.~~ An apparatus as set forth in claim <sup>14</sup>~~18~~,  
including means for limiting the extent of movement of  
the mesh closure member between the retracted position  
and the extended position.

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<sup>16</sup>~~20.~~ An apparatus as set forth in claim <sup>15</sup>~~19~~,  
wherein the closure member movement limiting means  
includes a housing bumper enclosing a front end of the  
track to prevent movement of the closure member beyond  
5 a front end of the compartment aperture as defined by  
the housing, and a rear bumper affixed to the handle to  
prevent rearward movement of the closure member beyond  
the retracted position, the rear bumper being so  
situated so as to position the front end portion of the  
10 mesh closure member within the portion of the track  
supported by the rear housing projection when the mesh  
closure member is in its retracted position.

*add*  
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